



Elections Coming Up

—By Robert KA5WSS

No, not **that** election! November is when VOMARC holds elections for next year's slate of officers. October is an ideal time to nominate yourself, or others, for the various leadership positions. The current officers can be found at the end of this newsletter under "Cast of Characters".

Anyone who has an interest in improving the operation of the club is encouraged to step up. With the unfortunate passing of Jim (K6UUW) we have a vacancy in the office of Vice President. Note that Dave (KD6FIL) has also been doing double duty as both Secretary and Treasurer. So one could conclude there are two open slots available.

Then, on top of that, there are existing officers such as myself. If someone else would like to take up the mantle of President of the club to chart a new course then please step up. A periodic change of course is normally a healthy exercise for an organization.

The [official VOMARC By-Laws](#) describe the officer positions and the responsibilities of each. There are plenty of opportunities to chip in with a small amount of effort to help your

club. Please bring all of your ideas and energy you can muster over the next couple of months.

Something else we'll be voting on in November are amendments to the VOMARC By-Laws. Look for an article later in this newsletter for the proposed changes.

In the meantime see you on the bands, which have improved a bit as of late. A hopeful sign for better days ahead.

NEXT MEETING

Wed, October 21, 2020, 7:30pm
Zoom meeting room info will be emailed later.

Topic: Operating At Or Near 10GHz
Presenter: Joel Wilhite (KD6W)

Minutes, September 16 Meeting

Meeting was once again very successfully held on ZOOM by KA5WSS.

KA5WSS (Robert), KD6FIL (Dave), KE6HID (Andrew), KM6ZUC (Bruce), KG6QNT (Eileen), W5LTP (Sam), N6TVN (Carl), NJ6E (Stan), W1EJ (Ed), N6LY (Elizabeth), K6YD (Kevin), WB6TMH (Mike), KG6N (Frank), N7PIB (Sanford)

Guest: AA7A (Ned), K6TD (Kevin)

Meeting called to order at 19:30 by president and zoom master KA5WSS

MINUTES

Minutes from the August meeting accepted as written.

TREASURER

Currently have \$4,636 in the bank. VOMARC set it up to pay dues online. Phillip Danskin paid dues, but I do not have any contact information.

SECRETARY

No Updates. The VOMARC Breakfast on the Air is going well.

Training

School closed

PRESIDENT

Club Constitution needs some amendments, including adding the VEC position. Next month's meeting topic will be Operating above 10 GHz by Joel, KD6W. We are not planning on holding a Christmas Party this year.

OLD BUSINESS

Donated equipment that is for sale, is posted to the VOMARC Web Page.

NEW BUSINESS

KD6FIL is still working on the book list.

The Sonoma County DMR net is still going at 1830 on Thursdays on talk group 31707.

KA5WSS has created an email reflector for the club. Go to VOMARC.org and look at the bottom of the right side of the page.

<https://vomarc.groups.io/g/announcements>

Mystery Box: Jack, K6ZMF has the box and the Mystery Box program is on hold for a while

Next Month's Program: Operating above 10 GHz by Joel, KD6W.

PROGRAM

K6TD, Kevin, and AA7A, Ned, presentation on the NCDX Foundation Beacon Program.
<https://www.ncdxf.org/beacon/beaconprograms.html>

Meeting adjourned at 2030.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

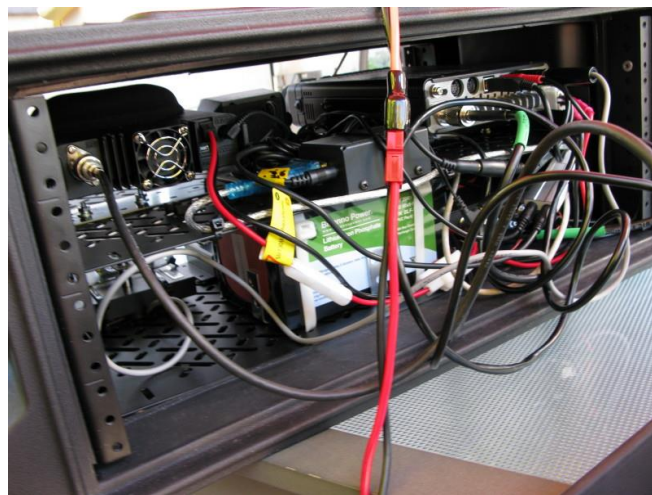
W6GEE's Go Box

This year's 2020 Field Day (FD) inspired me to build a go box after many years of wanting one. With this year's shelter-in-place order, I decided to set up my FD operation in my backyard running my station on a Bioenno solar/battery-powered system. After having done a few camping trips and my recent FD ops with all my equipment scattered on a table, I decided it was time to consolidate everything into a self-contained go-box with rig and power source all built in. My project had two main considerations for design: 1) It would be set up mainly for CW and digital (FT8) ops, and 2) This had to be easy enough so a mechanically and tool-challenged person like me could handle it without mucking things up too bad. Luckily, I was able to accomplish my second consideration with the magic of velcro and zip ties.

My go-box equipment consists of a Yaesu FT-891, TYT-7800 dual bander, Rigblaster Nomic, LDG Z-11 Pro auto tuner, Bioenno 20Ah LiFP battery, Powerwerx power analyzer, West Mountain Radio RIGrunner 4006U, and Bencher BY-1 iambic paddle. The speaker and cables came from a combination of junk-box items and miscellaneous stuff bought from various ham stores. The only thing different I would've done is install a better dual bander other than my TYT-7800, because its audio is pretty mediocre. It also has a nasty hissing sound that's audible in spite of having the volume completely turned down. I guess that's what I deserve for trying to be so cheap.

Below is the basic list of materials and hardware needed to build my go-box:

Items	Source/Model No.	Quantity
Gator Case	Pro G-4S (velcro incl.)	1
Mid Atlantic Shelves	1U Utility Rack Shelf	2
Bulkhead Coax Connectors	DX Engineering	2
Coax Connector Caps	EBay	2
5/8" Rubber Grommet	O'Reilly Auto	1
Zip Ties	Home Depot	15
L-Brackets	Home Depot	4
Bioenno Solar Panel	100W BSP-100	1



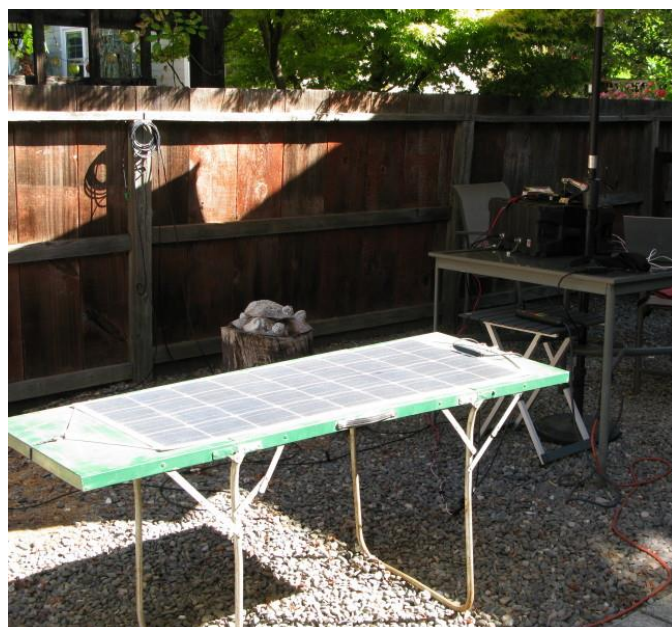
The rear of the Go Box with cover removed, showing wiring.



The front of the Go Box with cover removed.



The back of the Go Box showing antenna connectors.



The Bioenno solar panel providing power.

—Submitted by Leland (W6GEE)

Amateur Radio License Map

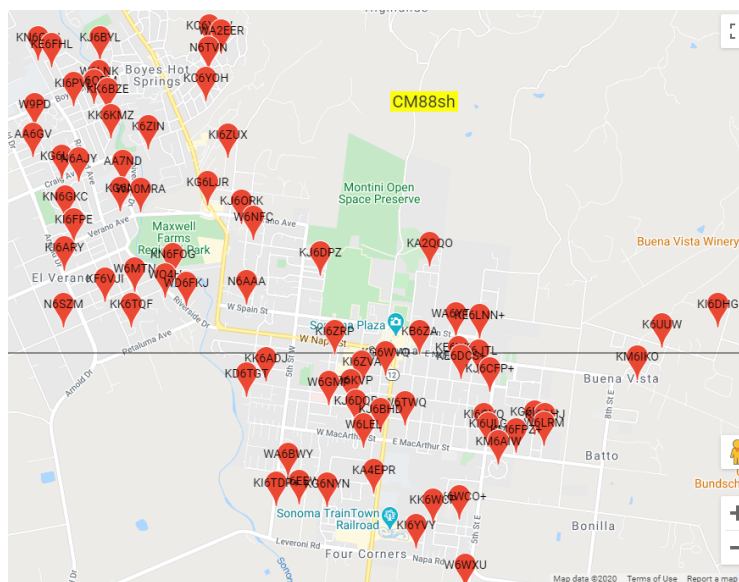
I came across this useful online tool that allows you to map the location of US Amateur Radio license holders. You can search by callsign, zip code, address or gridsquare. Those that use PO Boxes won't show up here at all.

Looking at Sonoma is interesting. There are a lot more Hams in the area than you might think. Certainly some of the license holders are Silent Keys or no longer active but it's still

surprising to see the number of markers just in Sonoma and the Springs area (see below).

It might be a useful exercise as a club to target non-members in the area for a one time mailing to see if we can acquire some new members in 2021.

<https://haminfo.tetranz.com/map>



—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

California QSO Party Results

VOMARC recently had a club meeting presentation on the California QSO Party conducted by Fred (N6YEU). A few members are known to have made at least a QSO in the contest this year.

Callsign	QSOs	Mults	Score
K6RTO	~12		
KG6N	1300+	58	207,000
N6TVN	281	50	42,150
N7PIB	2		

Carl (N6TVN) operated CW. Both of Sanford's (N7PIB) QSOs were with Parks On The Air (POTA) stations.

From Frank (KG6N):

Fred (N6YEU) and I operated as a portable expedition this year from Mendocino county. We were offered a hilltop above Willits on a horse ranch. We erected a tower similar to the VOMARC tube tower with a Force 12 C3 tribander and a pulley for a trapped 40/80 meter dipole. We also erected a Butternut HF-2V also for 40/80. We operated about 25 hours with 100 watts from an Icom 7610 and made a little over 1300 contacts. We got all 50 states and the 8 Canadian multipliers for a sweep. Our score ended up pretty good around 207,000.

We had some decent winds in the afternoons and saw some huge smoke columns from the August complex fire by Ruth Lake. That night we could also see the glow from the fire in the smoke. The smoke was heavy but cleared a few times from the wind. On Sunday morning we elected to lower the yagi to 20 feet in fear of the winds at 3pm when the contest ended, we were right.

All in all it was a good effort and solidly secured us a new county record. Our score exceeded even the high power m/s record and all of the county low power records. Next year we're taking an amp!



Frank (KG6N) and Fred (N6YEU)



The KG6N operation location in Mendocino County.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Who's Doing What

Elizabeth (N6LY) and **Kevin (K6YD)** worked all 50 states and are eligible for the Worked All States award! The last 2 worked were Vermont and Delaware. All on 100 watts and a wire antenna.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

Elizabeth (N6LY) has received confirmation from the ARRL of her appointment as VE Liaison for the club. She also reports that the League sends its condolences on the passing of our Vice President and previous President Jim (K6UUW).

Sanford (N7PIB) continues to be perhaps the most active member of the club. Robert (KA5WSS) has heard and worked him on the 80, 40, 30, 20, 17 and 15 meter bands using FT8.

Carl (N6TVN) made 28 QSOs using QRP CW in the Pennsylvania QSO Party, mostly on 20M.

Ed (W1EJ) made 15 QSOs in Straight Key Sprint.

Dave (KD6FIL) bought an 80-10M end fed half wave wire antenna.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Misc

The VOMARC [weekly net script](#) has been updated with the current officer list. Please use the latest version available on the vomarc.org website when performing net control operations.

Reports out of Australia indicated the government is considering an [SSB tax](#). Seriously? Yet another culture war, this time between phone and CW ops? No. The SSB in this case stands for sugar-sweetened beverages. And no, your beverage antenna is not at risk.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

By-Laws Amendments

We need to make a few changes to the [VOMARC By-Laws](#) to correct some mistakes and fill in a missing officer position. The VOMARC Board has approved the following changes, which need to be voted upon no earlier than 30 days after publication. That means we'll vote on this at the November meeting. Text in *italics* below are notes or explanation and not text that will be inserted into the By-Laws.

Article IV Section A

// Removing requirement that license be shown to the secretary when joining. We have not

// done this and electronic checking is now possible.

Application for membership shall be made via notification to The Club Treasurer, or his/her representative.

Article V Section B

// Added VE Liaison officer

The eight elected Officers of The Club shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary,

Treasurer, Radio Officer, Editor, Club Trustee and VE Liaison.

Article V Section D

// Add VE Liaison and change club callsign to W6AJF

Procedure for election of The Club officers will be as follows: The Club President will first call for nomination and election of VE Liaison, Editor, Radio Officer, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, and finally President.

Election may be by a raise of hands or by secret ballot, members present will determine which way to proceed. The Trustee's term will be the same as on The Club License, W6AJF

Article V Section F

// Adding VE Liaison description

8. VE LIAISON: He/she shall conduct, on behalf of The Club, sessions to administer licensing examinations in cooperation with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). He/she may also provide training sessions to assist potential applicants to study for their test.

Renumber existing 8. (PRESIDENT FOR LIFE) to be 9.

Article VII Section B

// Typo fix. Just changing "embers" to be members here.

No meeting of the members shall transact business of this Club unless a quorum of members entitled to vote are present. Members delinquent in dues and assessment, Associate members and Honorary members are NOT entitled to vote and therefore will NOT be counted as members constituting a quorum.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 24 EDITION 8

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Robert Barron KA5WSS – President

VACANT – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary

VACANT – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Jim Hill K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC."—S. Marler

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Black Bear Restaurant, 201 W Napa St, #34 (Marketplace Shopping Center), Sonoma. The fun starts at 08:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—OR—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

**2020 ACS
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2020 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	MOE	KI6JNU
AUGUST	CARL	N6TVN
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2020

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.